

friend, Wally Morics, as their Man of the Year for 2001.

TRIBUTE TO THE HON. GERALD
B.H. SOLOMON

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, Jerry Solomon was a great American. I think those of us who had the privilege to serve with him in the Congress know that he would consider this one of the finest compliments he could receive.

He loved this Country. He was a Marine and proud of it. He was a patriot in the very best sense of that word.

He was a loyal Republican who fought hard for the things he believed in. But he also had as many friends on the other side of the aisle as anyone in the House.

I always called him my Leader, because I respected him so much that I always watched to see how he voted and then usually followed his lead.

This Nation is a better place because of Jerry Solomon. He was one of the finest men I have ever known, and I want, in this small way, to express my great appreciation for his service and my heartfelt condolences to his family.

TRIBUTE TO THE HON. GERALD
B.H. SOLOMON

SPEECH OF

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, October 26th, my good friend Jerry Solomon passed away after suffering congestive heart failure. What a great loss for this institution and for the constituents he once served.

Jerry was a Member of this Chamber for 10 terms serving from 1979–1999. Ask anyone who served with him, and they will remember him as an outspoken and tenacious advocate for his views and constituents.

I knew Jerry well and he was second to none in this Chamber. In losing Jerry, we lost a tremendous patriot and committed public servant. He was often referred to by his fellow colleagues as “the Pit Bull of the House.”

And, although he enjoyed his work in Washington and in the International arena, he always said his greatest enjoyment came from successfully helping people back home in his district cope with problems they had with the Federal bureaucracy.

He was very proud of the often repeated comments on the streets back in his district that “you may not always agree with Jerry Solomon, but you sure as hell know where he stands on the issues.” His commuting back home every weekend catapulted him to reelection usually by overwhelming 3–1 margins during his ten terms in Congress.

Jerry Solomon also devoted more than fifty years of his life in active involvement with the

Boy Scouts of America, having been a Cub Scout, Boy Scout, scoutmaster, and serving as an advisor to numerous scout councils.

In support of the scouting movement he also founded the Gerald B.H. Solomon Freedom Foundation as a not-for-profit charitable organization whose goals are to preserve and promote freedom and democracy and to specifically provide college scholarships to high school students who attain Boy and Girl Scout's highest awards. He was recently honored by Twin Rivers Council Boy Scouts of America where he received the James E. West “Good Scout Award” for almost six decades of service to scouting.

During his Congressional career, which spanned 20 years serving in the House of Representatives, Jerry devoted most of his time to the issues of veterans, senior citizens, foreign policy, national defense, the war on drugs, and the budget.

During the 1980's, Jerry was one of thirteen House members that served on President Ronald Reagan's group of congressional advisors and floor generals for foreign policy, national defense and budgetary initiatives.

As a veteran member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, a Committee on which I also served, and as chairman of the National Defense Task Force, Jerry Solomon was instrumental in helping to develop President Reagan's “Peace Through Strength” policies that helped bring down the Soviet Union.

During President Reagan's tenure, he appointed Jerry Solomon to serve in dual capacities as Ambassador Delegate to the United Nations and Congressional Advisor to the U.N. Session on Disarmament.

Starting in 1980, Jerry served for 18 years as the Republican representative to the North Atlantic Assembly, the political arm of NATO. He also served as chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives NATO Observer Group, responsible for promoting the enlargement of NATO.

After the break-up of the Soviet Union, Jerry co-chaired the Task Force on Developing Parliamentary Institutions where he helped establish libraries and computer communications systems for twenty-one former communist countries like Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and the Baltics.

Jerry Solomon recently parlayed his vast knowledge and years of experience into a book, “NATO in the Twenty-First Century.”

During his entire Congressional career, Congressman Solomon, Jerry to all his friends and colleagues, was recognized as one of the most fiscally conservative members of Congress, fighting deficit spending, long before it became fashionable, forcing his own balanced budget onto the floor of the House of Representatives. He also authored a book on how and why a balanced budget is needed.

In his capacity as Chairman of the Rules Committee, he revamped the rules under which the House operates, abolishing proxy voting, opening all meetings to the media and the public, making Congress subject to the same laws that the American people live under and he reduced the size and power of Congress by eliminating many Committees and Subcommittees resulting in one-third fewer Congressional employees.

As a young man Jerry enlisted in the Marines where he served for 8½ years on active and reserve duty. As a Congressman, his fondness and respect for the Marines never

waned. As the Ranking Republican on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, he was recognized by the veteran's community as one of their strongest advocates.

He authored the bill that created the cabinet level Department of Veterans' Affairs and co-authored the establishment of the new peacetime G.I. Bill.

Two awards presented to him that he cherished most were being selected by the United States Marine Corps and Marine Corps League to receive the coveted “Iron Mike Award” previously given to a select few like John Wayne, Bob Hope, Howard K. Smith, and several former commandants of the Corps.

The other recognition being the Distinguished Citizen Award presented to him by the National Congressional Medal of Honor Society for his legislative successes on behalf of the United States military and veterans issues.

Who do you call when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that laws prohibiting the burning of the flag was unconstitutional? Jerry Solomon, the “Pit Bull of the House” was given the assignment to pass a constitutional amendment prohibiting desecration of the flag. The Solomon Amendment passed overwhelmingly in the House but failed by one vote in the Senate.

It is with great sadness that I bid my good friend, Jerry Solomon, farewell. May he always be remembered for the good father and husband that he was, and his relentless efforts to promote pride, patriotism and volunteerism. He proudly and unabashedly showcased his love for his family and his country every day of his life.

ADVANCING INNOVATION—GUARANTEEING THE LONG TERM VIABILITY OF AMERICA'S HIGH-TECH ECONOMY

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2001

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to state my support for the settlement reached between the Justice Department and Microsoft last Friday. This deal will bring to a close the long-standing anti-trust battle that has affected the entire computer technology industry. Though some wish the deal had gone further, I believe it strikes the necessary balance, respecting Microsoft's strength and success while maintaining healthy competition in the technology sector. I believe it is an important step to restoring our nation's dynamic economy. I agree with Microsoft's Chairman Bill Gates that the settlement is fair, reasonable, and the right thing for the software industry.

Microsoft has long been an innovative leader. Microsoft stands as an example of the excellence of American enterprise. I respect Microsoft's role provided they leave the door open for the significant contribution and innovation of other firms. I admire Microsoft's commitment to the settlement and its ongoing commitment to improving its revolutionary software. I am confident that Microsoft will make the necessary changes to assuage and prove false its competitors who attack the company's cutting-edge productivity products as predatory. I am glad that both parties could come to